IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ST. LOUIS CITY, MISSOURI ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT DIVISION

CHUDWUKI NJOKU,)
) Case No.:
Plaintiff,) Distribute
٧.) Div. No.:
••)
GC SERVICES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP,)
_) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
Serve at:)
Registered Agent)
CT Corporation)
120 South Central Avenue)
Clayton, MO 63105)
Defendant.)
Defendant,	,

PETITION FOR DAMAGES

Comes now Plaintiff, Chudwuki Njoku, by and through counsel, and states to this Court the following:

INTRODUCTION AND JURISDICTION

- 1. This is an action for statutory damages brought by an individual consumer for violations of the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et. seq.* ("FDCPA").
- 2. This Court has jurisdiction of the FDCPA claim under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d).
- 3. Venue is appropriate in this Court because Defendant directed its illicit conduct at Plaintiff in Saint Louis City, Missouri.
- 4. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

PARTIES

5. Plaintiff is a natural person currently residing in Saint Louis City, Missouri. Plaintiff is a consumer within the meaning of the FDCPA. The alleged debt owed arises out of consumer, family and household transactions.

- 6. Defendant is a foreign company with its principal place of business in Houston, Texas. The principal business purpose of Defendant is the collection of debts, and Defendant regularly attempts to collect alleged debts owed.
- 7. Defendant is engaged in the collection of debts from consumers using the mail and telephone in Missouri and nationwide. Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined by the FDCPA. 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

FACTS

- 8. Defendant's collection activity of which Plaintiff complains occurred within the previous twelve (12) months.
- 9. Plaintiff's alleged debt is comprised of deficiencies from an account with AES regarding a student loan.
- 10. Plaintiff's initial communication took place with Defendant via telephone on or around September 8, 2015 in order to learn more information about the alleged debt.
- 11. During the phone conversation, Defendant acknowledged that this was the first time the parties had spoken. Plaintiff's rights pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692g remained in full effect throughout Defendant's collection activity.
- 12. During the phone conversation, Plaintiff attempted to dispute the debt and asked for verification, stating that the balance was extremely high.
- 13. Defendant responded by stating that it will take anywhere from six to eight weeks before Plaintiff will receive verification and that the high balance was due to penalties, interest and collection charges.
- 14. Such an assertion made by Defendant was false or misleading and was a tactic or misrepresentation intended to coerce or deceive Plaintiff into paying the alleged debt.

- 15. Defendant agreed that they would send verification but then immediately demanded payment multiple times. Defendant even went so far to state that when the loan is in default, it is subject to wage garnishment.
- 16. Defendant further stated that while you wait the six to eight weeks for verification, if you "work out a payment plan" with us, it will prevent the wage garnishment.
- 17. Defendant's conduct caused Plaintiff to believe that Plaintiff could not exercise Plaintiff's Section 1692g rights or that such an exercise would not be honored, and that Plaintiff had to pay the alleged debt within the dispute period. Defendant overshadowed Plaintiff's rights to dispute, validate and verify the debt during the conversation.
- 18. During the phone call, Plaintiff asked politely about how payment will impact Plaintiff's credit score. Defendant told Plaintiff that once "you make nine" payments, you will get out of default. Defendant further stated that once you're finished "paying the loan, it will be expunged" and off of your credit report.
- 19. Again, such an assertion made by Defendant was false or misleading and was a tactic or misrepresentation intended to coerce or deceive Plaintiff into paying the alleged debt.
- 20. Plaintiff also told Defendant to cease all phone calls to Plaintiff during the day because Plaintiff was at work during the day and such calls are not acceptable. Defendant stated that they would comply and would notate the account.
- 21. Since the September 8, 2015 phone call, Plaintiff has received numerous calls by Defendant during the day.
- 22. Plaintiff contacted Defendant on October 22, 2015 and confirmed that Defendant was contacting him during the day. Plaintiff again stressed that he is at work during this time and need all of Defendant's calls to cease.

23. Defendant's collection attempts and misrepresentations have caused Plaintiff to incur actual damages, attorney's fees, as well as emotional distress and denial of credit.

COUNT I: VIOLATION OF THE FDCPA

- 24. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the above paragraphs.
- 25. Defendant regularly attempts to collect consumer debts asserted to be due to another and, at all relevant times herein, was a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 26. A single action on the part of a debt collector can violate multiple sections of the FDCPA.
- 27. In its attempts to collect the alleged debt from Plaintiff, Defendant has committed violations of the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et. seq.* including, but not limited to the following:
 - a. Using false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of the alleged debt. 15 U.S.C §1692e;
 - b. Overshadowing Plaintiff's dispute, validation, and verification rights in violation of
 15 U.S.C. §1692g;
 - c. Continuing to collect on the alleged debt prior to providing verification and refusing to provide validation of the debt in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692g;
 - d. Attempting to collect interest, fees, charges and expenses not permitted by law or expressly authorized by the agreement creating the debt in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692f;
 - e. Using unfair or unconscionable means to collect a debt in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692f;
 - f. Contacting Plaintiff repeatedly or continuously with intent to annoy, abuse or harass Plaintiff in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692d.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be entered against

Defendant for:

- A. Declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the FDCPA;
- B. Actual damages;
- C. Release of the alleged debt;
- D. Statutory damages, costs, litigation expenses and attorney's fees pursuant to 15
 U.S.C. § 1692(k); and
- E. For such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff requests a trial by jury, in the Associate Circuit Court of Saint Louis City, Missouri on all counts and allegations of wrongful conduct alleged in this Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

AEKTRA LEGAL, LLC

/s/ Steven A. Donner Steven A. Donner, #63789 1108 Olive Street, Suite 200 St. Louis, Missouri 63101 Phone: (314) 240-5350

Fax. (888) 785-4461

Email: steve.donner@da-lawfirm.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ST. LOUIS CITY, MISSOURI ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT DIVISION

CHUDWUKI NJOKU,)	
Plaintiff,)	Case No.:
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GC SERVICES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP,)	HIDN CONT. I DOIS NOT DO
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Serve at:)	
Registered Agent)	
CT Corporation)	
120 South Central Avenue)	
Clayton, MO 63105)	
)	
Defendant.)	

MOTION FOR SPECIAL PROCESS SERVER

Comes now Plaintiff, by and through counsel, and requests that David Conder, ProServe, 4740 Candleglow Drive, Saint Louis, MO 63129, be appointed as a special process server for service on Defendant.

Respectfully submitted,

AEKTRA LEGAL, LLC

/s/ Steven A. Donner Steven A. Donner, #63789 1108 Olive Street, Suite 200 Saint Louis, Missouri 63101 Telephone: (314) 240-5350

Facsimile: (888) 785-4461

Email: <u>steve.donner@da-lawfirm.com</u>

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF



STEVEN A. DONNER, Partner Attorney at Law

1108 Olive Street, Suite 200 Saint Louis, MO 63101 Telephone: (314) 240-5350 Facsimile: (888) 785-4461

Email: steve.donner@da-lawfirm.com

October 28, 2015

Associate Circuit, Civil Division 22nd Judicial Circuit Courts 10 North Tucker Blvd St. Louis, MO 63101

RE: CHUDWUKI NJOKU V. GC SERVICES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP 1522-AC12859

To Whom It May Concern:

Unfortunately, due to a clerical error, I submitted only \$50.00 instead of the required \$93.00 as a filing fee in the above referenced matter. Please find enclosed payment for \$43.00, which reflects the remaining filing fee owed. I apologize for any inconvenience that this may have caused you. Please feel free to contact me with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Donner

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MISSOURI JUDICIARY
22ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CITY OF ST. LOUIS
CASE PARTY FEE REPORT

23-Oct-2015 8:13 AM 1

Date: Time: Page:

CHUDWUKI NJOKU V GC SERVICES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

FEES AND ADJUSTMENTS CASE ID: 1522-AC12859

Case Fees

Detc				
Code	Description	Date	Fee Amount	Balance Due
3302	•	23-Oct-2015	\$33.00	\$0.00
3008		23-Oct-2015	\$15.00	\$0.00
3148	_	23-Oct-2015	\$45.00	\$43.00
		Total Fees:	\$93.00	\$43.00
		Grand Total Case and Party Fees:	\$93.00	\$43.00
RECEIPTS				

Detc	Description	Date	Receipt No.	Bond/ Acct ID	Void N Ind.	Void Non-Monetary Ind. Amount	Monetary	
1109	Credit Card-eFiling	23-Oct-2015	22ST1878029			\$0.00	\$50.00	
				Party Total Receipts:	Receipts:	\$0.00	\$50.00	
			_	Grand Total Receipts:	Receipts:	\$0.00	\$50.00	

DONNER, STEVEN ANDREW (63789)

Party Name (Party ID) Case: 4:15-cv-01771-HEA Doc. #: 1-1 Filed: 12/01/15 Page: 9 of 10 PageID #: 12



IN THE 22ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, CITY OF ST LOUIS, MISSOURI

Judge or Division: BARBARA PEEBLES	Case Number: 1522-AC12859
Plaintiff/Petitioner: CHUDWUKI NJOKU vs.	Plaintiff's/Petitioner's Attorney/Address: STEVEN ANDREW DONNER 1108 OLIVE STREET SUITE 200 ST LOUIS, MO 63101
Defendant/Respondent: G C SERVICES LTD PARTNERSHIP	Date, Time and Location of Court Appearance: 02-DEC-2015, 09:30 AM
Nature of Suit: AC Other Tort	Division 27 CIVIL COURTS BUILDING 10 N TUCKER BLVD SAINT LOUIS, MO 63101

(Date File Stamp)

	Associate Divisio	n Summons	
The State of Missour	i to: G C SERVICES LTD PARTNERSHIP		The Property of the Control of the C
CT CORPORATION 20 S CENTRAL AVE CLAYTON, MO 63105	Alias:	SPECIAL PROCE	
CITY OF ST LOUIS	If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be to permitted to file certain responsive pleadings, pur responsive pleadings in this case, you should con-	art on the date, time, and location above to answer aken against you for the relief demanded in the pet suant to Chapter 517 RSMo. Should you have any	the attached petition. ition. You may be y questions regarding the court at least 48
Ü	Sheriff's or Server Service must not be made less than ten days nor mor appear in court.		pondent is to
delivering a copy leaving a copy of (for service on a copy of	corporation) delivering a copy of the summons and a copy	ng place or usual abode of the Defendant/Responde e Defendant's/Respondent's family over the age of copy of the petition to	f 15 years.
	(na		
	(County/City of St. Louis), MO, on		
Printed	Name of Sheriff or Server	Signature of Sheriff or Server	r
(Seal)	Must be sworn before a notary public if not Subscribed and sworn to before me on My commission expires: Date	(date).	
Sheriff's Fees, if app Summons Non Est Sheriff's Deputy Salar Supplemental Surchar Mileage	licable \$ \$		

A copy of the summons and a copy of the petition must be served on each Defendant/Respondent. For methods of service on all classes of suits,

see Supreme Court Rule 54.



IN THE 22ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, CITY OF ST LOUIS, MISSOURI

Judge or Division: BARBARA PEEBLES	Case Number: 1522-AC12859										
Plaintiff/Petitioner: CHUDWUKI NJOKU vs.	Plaintiff's/Petitioner's Attorney/Address: STEVEN ANDREW DONNER 1108 OLIVE STREET SUITE 200 ST LOUIS, MO 63101										
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	SAINT LOUIS, MO 63101		(Di	(Date F	(Date Fife S	(Date File Sta	(Date Fife Star	(Date File Stam	(Date File Stamp	(Date Fife Stamp	(Date File Stamp)

	Associate Divi	ision Summons
The State of Missouri	to: G C SERVICES LTD PARTNERS	HIP
	Alias:	
CT CORPORATION 20 S CENTRAL AVE CLAYTON, MO 63105		SPECIAL PROCESS SERVER
COURT SEAL OF	If you fail to do so, judgment by default will permitted to file certain responsive pleading responsive pleadings in this case, you should	is court on the date, time, and location above to answer the attached petition. I be taken against you for the relief demanded in the petition. You may be so, pursuant to Chapter 517 RSMo. Should you have any questions regarding donsult an attorney. It assistance for your court appearance, please contact the court at least 48 Thomas Moeppinger, Circuit Clerk
I certify that I have ser delivering a copy of leaving a copy of l	Service must not be made less than ten days no appear in court, wed the above summons by: (check one) of the summons and a copy of the petition to the he summons and a copy of the petition at the days of the days of the days of the petition at the days of the petition at the days o	welling place or usual abode of the Defendant/Respondent with of the Defendant's/Respondent's family over the age of 15 years.
Served at 105:	Control Scute 400 STL	New 63/05 (address)
in StLurus Dav	(County/City of St. Louis), MC	O, on $1/-12-3005$ (date) at $12:3005$ (time).
Printed A	lame of Sheriff or Server	Signature of Sheriff or Server
JANE P. CONDER Notary, Public - Notary S	Must be sworn before a notary public i Ball Subscribed and sworn to before me on 1	Vovember 10, 80 11 to (date)
State of Missouri Commissioned for St. Louis	CountyMy commission expires: B-15	- 2019 July
Kiv Commission Expires: March	115, 2019 Da	te / Notary Public
Sherime Feether by	itilibie——	
Summons Non Est	Ф	
Sheriff's Deputy Salar	Y	
Supplemental Surcharg	ge \$ 10.00	
Mileage	\$ (miles (d) \$ per mile)
Total	\$	
A copy of the summon see Supreme Court Ru		each Defendant/Respondent. For methods of service on all classes of suits,